

Revised 10/02

**B. REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

**1. USDA Regulations and Instructions:**

The Food Distribution Program (FDP) is authorized by the U.S. Congress through several pieces of legislation. The primary pieces of legislation which enables the various commodities to be provided to School Food Authorities (SFAs)/Child Nutrition Programs are:

Group A - Section 32 of the Agricultural Act of 1935, which authorizes the purchase and distribution of perishable commodities in order to remove surpluses and stabilize farm prices;

Group B - Section 6 of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), which mandates a per-meal commodity assistance rate for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); and

Bonus - Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the purchase and distribution of commodities for the purpose of supporting farm prices.

Regulations are developed and issued by USDA based upon provisions contained in the enabling legislation. Copies of pertinent regulations, (e.g., Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 210, 250, 252, etc.) are

available upon request from the KDA or USDA's web sites. In addition to regulations, formal instructions and policy memorandums are issued to provide more detailed guidance in dealing with specific areas of the program.

## 2. Commodity Specifications:

FNS Instructions 716-1, Revision 2, "USDA Commodity Descriptions" (Section Q) contains "short" versions of the actual specifications used by the USDA to purchase foods for SFAs. Copies of this instruction are available from the KDA upon request or on the Food Distribution web site. Specifications identify the product characteristics in terms that are mutually understood by the purchaser (USDA) and the vendor. Components of the specifications may include:

1. Name of the item
2. Quality or official grade
3. Kind, style, and/or variety
4. Product composition
5. Special instructions
6. Size and packaging of the product
8. Proper storage

SFAs and/or schools may be able to utilize these specifications in their procurement activities, although some products described may not be available on the commercial market to individual purchasers. The SDA will provide updates to the instructions, as they become available.

3. Commodity Fact Sheets:

Commodity Fact Sheets provide the following information about the product:

1. Ingredients
2. Pack size including the number of units per case
3. Yield per unit (number of servings) (P.A. 1331 - Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs)
4. Usage suggestions
5. Storage guidelines
6. Nutritional composition
7. Preparation tips
8. Recipes

The KDA will provide additional fact sheets, as new commodities become available on the Food Distribution web site. Commodity Fact Sheets are available at the USDA Web Site: [www.fns.usda.gov/fdd](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd).

4. USDA Standardized Recipes. The Standardized Recipes produced by USDA for the school nutrition programs can be referred to for ideas on utilizing commodities. The Kentucky Department of Education, Division of School and Community Nutrition disseminate the recipes.